



RTCA in Arizona

The Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) program is the community assistance arm of the National Park Service. The National Park Service (NPS) staff provide technical assistance to community groups, city, county, tribal governments, and non-profit organizations working to enhance close-to-home outdoor recreation and natural resource conservation opportunities. We help local leaders plan and design trails and parks; conserve and improve access to natural areas; protect special places; and create recreation opportunities.

The RTCA program in Arizona offers a wide range of services that can be tailored to meet the needs of an individual project. The NPS staff members are trained facilitators who encourage project leaders to build collaborative partnerships among governmental and non-governmental stakeholders. The program helps communities and groups define their vision, goals, and objectives; analyze issues and opportunities; and develop strategic action plans and time lines for projects. We do not provide financial assistance, but can help project partners identify and secure sources of funding and technical support.

Any community with committed project partners can apply for assistance. Believing the best plans are completed locally, the National Park Service will work with partners to encourage broad-based community participation in planning, designing, and implementing the projects we support.



Grasslands of Apache County, Arizona

In 2016, the National Park Service in Arizona will work on a variety of projects including:

- **Apache County Trails System** – establishing a regional trail through three towns that connects the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest and Petrified Forest National Park.
- **City of Benson Parks, Trails and Open Space Master Plan** – developing a master plan for outdoor recreation opportunities and engaging local stakeholders and community groups in the planning process.
- **Maricopa County Estrella Mountain Regional Park** –increasing public access to outdoor recreation and backcountry camping opportunities and expanding the park trail system.
- **Verde River Access and Recreation** – improving public access, orientation and trail systems along the river.
- **Verde Valley Archaeological Park** – developing a trail and interpretation along the river corridor to link the new Archeological Center to the future riverfront town park.

For more information about the RTCA program refer to: www.nps.gov/rtca, or for information about ongoing or potential RTCA projects in Arizona contact:

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